

Message Text

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TO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187412

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 3325 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO BELGRADE BONN BRUSSELS LONDON MOSCOW PARIS
ROME GENEVA USINT HAVANA USUN NY USNATO USICA WASHDC JUL 24.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3325

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAU, PBOR, PORG, ET, NI, SO
SUBJECT: OAU SUMMIT: ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA GOOD OFFICES RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 3245 (B) KHARTOUM 3293 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BY REAFFIRMING OAU PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY, RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND INVIOABILITY OF
EXISTING FRONTIERS, OAU ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA GOOD OFFICES COM-
MITTEE HAS ONE AGAIN SUPPORTED ETHIOPIA'S POSITION OGADEN.
IN SO DOING, OAU HAS REJECTED SOMALI ARGUMENT THAT WESTERN
SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT (WSLF) IS LEGITIMATE LIBERATION
MOVEMENT AND THAT ETHIOPIA IS BLACK COLONIZER. GOOD OFFICES
REPORT ALLUDED TO "OMINOUS TREND TO INTERNATIONALIZE
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PURELY INTRA-AFRICAN CONFLICTS" AND CITED WESTERN POWERS'
EFFORTS TO TAKE CONFLICT TO UN OR EVEN NON-ALIGNED (NAM)
CONFERENCE. REPORT CONCLUDES BY APPEALING TO BOTH SIDES
TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT AND END ALL MILITARY AND
HOSTILE ACTIVITIES, TO REFRAIN FROM USE OF FORCE, FOR OAU
TO RENDER PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND FOR MEDIATION
EFFORTS TO CONTINUE. END SUMMARY

1. NIGERIAN PRES. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, AS CHAIRMAN, PRESENTED GOOD OFFICES REPORT TO SUMMIT JULY 21. REPORT NOTED LITTLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE SINCE LIBREVILLE REAFFIRMATION OF OAU PRINCIPLES. IT CONTINUED HOWEVER THAT, "ONE MAJOR ASSIGNMENT WHICH I FULFILLED IN COURSE OF MY STATE VISIT TO U.S., WAS TO SEEK AND OBTAIN AN UNDERTAKING FROM PRES. CARTER THAT U.S. WOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY INVOLVEMENT IN OGADEN WAR, AND GIVE AFRICA CHANCE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM AS ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I SENT SIMILAR SPECIAL ENVOY TO SOVIET UNION."

2. OBASANJO THEN PAID TRIBUTE TO STATESMANSHIP OF ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA WHICH RESULTED IN WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALIAN TROOPS FROM OGADEN AND DRASTICALLY DE-ESCALATED THE CRISIS. HOWEVER, WAR HAS NOT RESOLVED THE DISPUTE. IF ANYTHING, IT HAS INTRODUCED DANGEROUS DIMENSIONS TO THE DISPUTE, READS THE REPORT. IT HAS SHOWN THAT "MORE WE (AFRICANS) DEPEND ON FOREIGN ARMS SUPPLIERS, THE MORE WE MORTGAGE OUR RIGHT TO RESOLVE OUR DISPUTES BY OURSELVES."

3. COMMISSION SUBMITTED FOLLOWING PROPOSALS (WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY SUMMIT): BEGIN TEXT

(A) TO RESTATE THAT AN INDISPENSABLE CONDITION FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES CAN BEST BE MET BY THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF RESPECT
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FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES, THE INVIOABILITY OF EXISTING FRONTIERS BETWEEN OAU MEMBER STATES, NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MEMBER STATES AS WELL AS THE SETTLEMENT OF ALL DISPUTES AMONG THEM BY PEACEFUL MEANS;

(B) TO APPEAL TO BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT, TO WORK EARNESTLY TO END ALL MILITARY AND HOSTILE ACTIVITIES AGAINST EACH OTHER AND TO REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN THEM;

(C) TO REQUEST THE OAU TO RENDER PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES AND TO ASSIST IN EFFECTING THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR; AND

(D) TO CONTINUE MEDIATION EFFORTS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE. END TEXT
OBASANJO FURTHER CALLED ON TWO STATES TO DESIST FROM USING MASS MEDIA TO FAN FEELINGS OF HOSTILITY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER.

4. OBASANJO ASSERTED IN REPORT THAT IT TOOK CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO PERSUADE WESTERN POWERS NOT TO TAKE CONFLICT TO UN OR NAM. COMMITTEE REPEATED ONCE AGAIN THAT AFRICA WOULD PREFER TO SOLVE HER OWN PROBLEMS BY HER OWN MEANS

AND IN HER OWN WAY.

5. DURING GENERAL SPEECHES OF SUMMIT KENYAN VICE-PRES. MOI VOICED KENYA'S SUPPORT FOR THOSE OAU PRINCIPLES WHICH BOLSTER ETHIOPIA'S CASE, SPECIFICALLY RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY OF MEMBER NATIONS, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES AND RESPECT FOR BOUNDARIES AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE. MOI ADDED THAT PERSISTENCE OF SOME MEMBERS' TERRITORIAL CLAIMS BASED ON ARCHAIC AND OUTMODED CONCEPTS OF TRIBALISM, ETC. IS SOURCE OF UNNECESSARY TENSION AND CONFLICT WHICH AFRICA CANNOT AFFORD.

6. COMMENT: THERE APPEARED TO BE VERY LITTLE SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA'S POSITION ON THE WSLF AND OGADEN DURING THE OAU
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MEETINGS. HOWEVER IT DOES NOT SEEM AS IF SOMALIA IS WILLING TO CEASE ITS SUPPORT FOR WSLF "RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION" IN OGADEN OR REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH ETHIOPIA. PEACE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA APPEARS AS DISTANT AS EVER.
BERGUS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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